

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 299  
By Person

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Chef Valerie Bryant, and the staff of the River Terrace Yacht Club of Memphis on their receipt of two Five Star Diamond Awards.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to recognize those exemplary professionals who through hard work and dedication have reached the very pinnacle of their respective professions; and

WHEREAS, Valerie Bryant, President and Signature Chef of the River Terrace Yacht Club, is most assuredly one such exceptionally gifted and motivated professional who has recently attained two prestigious awards from a most discerning and cultured association in the culinary world; and

WHEREAS, Chef Bryant was recently awarded two Five Star Diamond Awards by the American Academy of Restaurant and Hospitality Sciences at their sixth annual meeting held in Nashville in October, 1995; and

WHEREAS, the Five Star Diamond Award is the ultimate award conferred by this prestigious organization, which is composed of discriminating and knowledgeable patrons of quality restaurants, clubs, hotels and other lodging establishments; and

WHEREAS, while other award programs hire inspectors, the American Academy of Restaurant and Hospitality Sciences relies on the trustees, professional members and their general membership to inspect and evaluate establishments meticulously; and

WHEREAS, because a detailed inspection involving sixty separate criteria is the determining factor in validating the integrity of the Five Star Diamond Award program, it is the opinion of the Academy that an establishment can only be realistically judged by ladies and gentlemen who dine out and travel on a frequent basis; and

WHEREAS, the backgrounds of the inspectors, the criteria and the overall evaluation system all ensure that the Academy's ratings are the most accurate and reliable of any in the world; and

WHEREAS, River Terrace Yacht Club heralded the Five Star Diamond Award, meaning it has been voted by the Academy as one of the Top Ten Dining clubs in America for 1995-96; and

WHEREAS, Chef Valerie Bryant was also a recipient of one of the twelve prestigious chef's awards presented by the Academy; she received the Five Star Diamond Award naming her one of America's Best Chefs for 1995-96; and

WHEREAS, as President and Signature Chef of River Terrace Yacht Club, a premier General Membership Dining Club located on Mud Island, Valerie Bryant is renowned throughout Memphis for her culinary and entertaining abilities; and

WHEREAS, she has had extensive experience working with chefs and entertaining guests from all over the world: she was trained in the Classical French Style of Cuisine and received her culinary training from Le Cordon Bleu L'art Culinaire in Paris, France; and

WHEREAS, her peerless endeavors in entertaining have included hosting the President of the United States, cooking private 10-course dinner parties for 8-20, organizing fund-raising galas for 600, hosting theme parties and entertaining people from all walks of life and of different nationalities; and

WHEREAS, Chef Bryant also conducts cooking classes, and she is admired and respected for her informative and thought-provoking lectures on the subjects of social/business entertaining and entertaining protocol; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her remarkable culinary talents, Valerie Bryant holds a degree in business administration and finance, a real estate broker's license and an FCC license; and

WHEREAS, realizing that citizenship entails many responsibilities as well as privileges, this well-rounded lady is an integral part of the Memphis community, serving on the board of the Memphis Concert Ballet, the Pal's Porter-Leath Children's Center, the Josephine Circle, the Roundtable for Women in Food Service and the National Association of Female Executives and is past President of the Shelby County Republican Women; and

WHEREAS, also a Rotarian and an active member of the American Culinary Federation, this consummate professional was also Mrs. Tennessee 1991 and placed in the top ten in the Mrs. America Pageant; and

WHEREAS, Chef Bryant is also a world traveler, having been fortunate enough to have visited over 35 different countries; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it most appropriate to offer a toast to Chef Valerie Bryant, and salute this exceptional lady upon her sterling achievements in the culinary and entertaining world; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and congratulate Chef Valerie Bryant and the staff of the River Terrace Yacht Club of Memphis on their receipt of two prestigious Five Star Diamond Awards from the American Academy of Restaurant and Hospitality Sciences.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we commend Chef Bryant for her ongoing commitment to excellence both in culinary matters and in her everyday life, and extend our best wishes for much continued success in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation to Chef Bryant and her staff, with this final clause omitted from such copies.